



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Meeting Minutes - **Draft**

Town Council

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., John F. Scott, Paulann H. Sheets, James L. Streeter, and Elissa T. Wright.

Tuesday, December 20, 2005

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Harry Watson.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, and Office Assistant Elga Concepcion.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Scott, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Members Absent: Councilor Bond and Councilor Wright

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Town Attorney Eileen Duggan.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2005-0308 Proclamation Honoring Martha Hug

Read

Councilor Bartinik read the Proclamation.

IV. CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

John Sutherland, 32 Neptune Drive, believes that few residents are aware of the implications of the revaluation and its impact on their tax bills. He distributed a four page handout to the Councilors.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Councilor Sheets thanked Mr. Sutherland for his thoughtful and analytical statement.

Responding to Mr. Sutherland's comments regarding projected mill rates, Councilor O'Beirne suggested that he be careful when asking for a 2006/2007 mill rate calculation after this revaluation.

SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

A motion to suspend the rules for the Councilors to discuss the appropriateness of estimating the mill rate was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Bartinik. The motion failed to carry with 3 in favor, 4 opposed. (In Favor: Councilor Sheets, Councilor Bartinik, and Councilor O'Beirne. Opposed: Councilor Scott, Councilor Streeter, Mayor Watson, and Councilor Kolnaski.)

Councilor Kolnaski and Mayor Watson feel that this matter should be discussed in the Committee of the Whole and not during tonight's Town Council meeting.

Councilor Bartinik asked the Town Manager if his office could provide an estimate of the mill rate in lieu of requesting a referral to the Committee of the Whole.

In response to Councilor Bartinik's comments, Mr. Oefinger confirmed that he will provide this

information in the next Town Manager's Report.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2005-0313 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting of December 6, 2005 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2005-0304 Contract Agreement between the Groton Board of Education and the Groton Education Association

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2005-0266 Program Supervisor for Special Needs and Inclusion Position

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2005-0241 Homeland Security Large City Stipend

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2005-0299 Town Attorney Appointment

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2005-0315 Job Description for Operations Supervisor - WPCF

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2005-0316 Job Description for Water Pollution Control Facility Technician

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

c. Special Trust Fund Contributions

2005-0309 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

Joellen Anderson - \$200.00 - Library Discretionary
 Paul and Cassandra Simoncini (in memory of Mildred Hastedt) - \$50.00 - Library Discretionary
 Rebecca E. Baumann (in memory of Lauren Candler) - \$100.00 - Library Discretionary
 Madelene Fields - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Groton Lions Club - \$1,000.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 William and Jean Murray - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Mystic River Homes Inc. - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Noank PTO - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Albert and Janiss Rudolph - \$75.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 United Church of Stonington - \$140.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Jeanne Urian - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Various Donations - \$765.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 City of Groton Matching Funds - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Various Donations - \$247.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Bernard Bartick (in memory of Mildred Hastedt) - \$10.00 - Library Discretionary
 James E. Mitchell (in memory of Mildred Hastedt) - \$25.00 - Library Discretionary
 Alfred H. Gildersleeve - \$100.00 - Library Discretionary
 Alan M. Major - \$8.00 - Library Discretionary
 Susan Johnson (in memory of Mildred Hastedt) - \$10.00 - Library Discretionary
 Mary Bosko - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Pfizer Inc. - \$1,000.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Richard and Glen Ross - \$30.00 - Social Services Discretionary
June Montz - \$320.00 - Social Services Discretionary
April Britt - \$10.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Rotary Club of Mystic - \$750.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Deborah Mandel - \$25.00 - Dog Pound
Joe Morris - \$5.00 - Dog Pound

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Bartinik, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously.

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Several Councilors received communications regarding the revaluation, upcoming budget, and property taxes. Councilors also attended the joint Board of Education/Permanent School Building Committee meeting on December 15.

Councilor O'Beirne attended the Mystic Chamber of Commerce Dinner.

Councilor Kolnaski attended a meeting of the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors on December 8 at which time regulation was passed for barber shops and various cosmetology salons.

Councilor Bartinik attended the Shennecossett Golf Course Committee meeting at which marketing ideas were discussed.

Councilor Scott attended the City of Groton Beach and Parks Commission meeting on December 14.

Mayor Watson attended a holiday reception at the Coast Guard Academy on December 11 and the Mystic Cooperative Task Force meeting on December 12. He attended a discussion at Avery Point on December 14. The Mayor assisted in passing out food baskets at the Human Services Department on December 16.

Mayor Watson received a call from the Chairman of the Board of Education regarding the appointment of an attorney. There will be a joint Board of Education and Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss this matter.

b. Representative Town Meeting

The RTM met on December 14 at which time Rita Schmidt was elected Moderator due to Donald Pratt's resignation.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Tarbox read vacancies on the Boards and Commissions in the Town, in particular appealing for volunteers for the Board of Assessment Appeals.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Oefinger noted that next week's Committee of the Whole, Group 1, and Group II meetings have been canceled; the next Town Council meeting will occur on January 3, 2006. He noted that all Town offices are closed on December 26, 2005 and January 2, 2006 in observance of the holidays.

Mr. Oefinger stated that the Town received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers' Association and commended the efforts of the Finance Department staff.

The Town Manager discussed the grand list, revaluation, and property taxes. He reminded residents that preliminary assessment values are currently available on the Internet and will be available eventually in The Day newspaper.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Scott

No meeting; no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond

No meeting; no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting; no report.

d. Environment & Recreation - Chairman Sheets

No meeting; no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Wright

No meeting; no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman O'Beirne

Councilor O'Beirne read the minutes of the meeting held on December 13, 2005 which are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

Councilor Streeter read the minutes of the meeting held on December 13, 2005 which are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

h. Public Works - Chairman Bartinik

No meeting; no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

The Committee of the Whole met on December 13. There was a Special Committee of the Whole meeting on December 15.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2005-0266 Program Supervisor for Special Needs and Inclusion Position

RESOLUTION APPROVING CONVERSION TO FULL TIME FOR PROGRAM SUPERVISOR FOR SPECIAL NEEDS AND INCLUSION

WHEREAS, there has been increased demand for special needs and inclusion events and activities throughout the spectrum of recreation programs, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Department of Parks and Recreation has specially qualified staff and has received awards and recognition for its special needs and inclusion, and

WHEREAS, the director of the department has requested that a currently part-time position be

authorized for conversion to full-time, and

WHEREAS, the added hours can be accommodated with the funds that were already planned for this purpose in the current budget, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Program Supervisor for Special Needs and Inclusion may be converted for full time incumbency.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor Bartinik feels that existing employees should take on additional duties in an appropriate manner before increasing the size of the department.

The Mayor noted that the Town received a national award for Inclusion in the Groton Parks and Recreation programs.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 6 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Scott, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Opposed: 1 - Councilor Bartinik, Jr.

2005-0241

Homeland Security Large City Stipend

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GROTON'S ENTITLEMENT TO REGIONAL PROJECT

WHEREAS, municipalities within the Millstone Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) are slated to receive a total of \$118,372 to use for emergency preparedness from the FYE 04 Federal Homeland Security Grant/Large City Stipend, and

WHEREAS, Groton as a member of the EPZ would be entitled to receive \$32,465 using the authorized per capita formula, and

WHEREAS, regional planning for resources and the execution of emergency plans within the entire EPZ is desirable and necessary, and

WHEREAS, Groton is supportive of regional approaches to regional issues and problems, feels that the pooling of the available grant dollars for the purpose of purchasing mobile informational directional signs that could be pre-positioned within the EPZ to allow for their successful deployment in the event of an emergency, and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) be the grant recipient for this Large City Stipend and act as the conduit for the expenditure of these funds, including the share amounting to \$32,465 that was allocated to Groton, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council endorses the payment of a single grant award for the EPZ towns to the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments, with the understanding that these funds will be used to purchase mobile informational directional signs that will be pre-positioned in appropriate locations so that they are readily available during emergencies, and that prior to distributing signs to member communities that a policy be developed and agreed upon indicating where the signs will be pre-positioned and when and how these signs are to be used.

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously.

2005-0299

Town Attorney Appointment

RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE TOWN ATTORNEY

of the litigation currently underway, and the cost and quality of the legal services now being provided, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Town Charter 5.1, Eileen Duggan of the firm of Suisman, Shapiro, Wool, Brennan, Gray & Greenberg, P.C. is hereby appointed Town Attorney, to exercise all powers and duties of that office until her successor shall be appointed and qualified, and that the following attorneys from Suisman Shapiro may assist Attorney Duggan carrying out her duties:

Matthew Auger
 Raymond Baribeault
 Andrew Brand
 Eric Callahan
 Harry Calmar
 Michael Carey
 John Keleher
 Robert Keville
 Hinda Kimmel

A motion was made by Councilor Bartinik, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Town Clerk administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Town Attorney, Eileen Duggan.

2005-0315 Job Description for Operations Supervisor - WPCF

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDED JOB DESCRIPTION FOR OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR - WPCF

WHEREAS, extended efforts to recruit the best qualified applicants for the vacant position of Operations Supervisor at the Water Pollution Control facility have revealed that the current job description imposes license requirements that are not consistent with the actual and immediate requirements of the job and hinder the submission of applications by highly qualified personnel, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Administrative Services has carefully analyzed the job market for the kind of position involved and recommends an amended job description, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Job Description of Operations Supervisor - WPCF, as amended November, 2005.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously.

2005-0316 Job Description for Water Pollution Control Facility Technician

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN UPDATED JOB DESCRIPTION FOR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY TECHNICIAN

WHEREAS, the Department of Administrative Services periodically reviews existing position descriptions for compliance with laws and regulations and to verify that the current duties and requirements of the job are accurately stated, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the job description for Water Pollution Control Facility Technician, at Hourly Level 16, as amended November, 2005

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Scott, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilors Kolnaski and Sheets wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday.

2005-0320 Adoption of Rules for Twenty-Fifth Town Council

ADOPTION OF RULES FOR TWENTY-FIFTH TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor Watson referred this item to the Personnel/Appointments/Rules Committee.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Streeter and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

*Elga Concepcion
Office Assistant*